

Our family has lived at 219 Strong Street for 26 years. We are writing because of our concern about the safety conditions along Strong Street. It has become an extremely dangerous route to walk and to drive. This is no longer a borderline country road. It is a high-traffic shortcut to UMass and other points.

Vehicles go upwards of 35 mph regularly. Thanks to police officers who sit at the Wildwood cemetery, some of these cars can be ticketed, but only a tiny fraction of the the many cars that pass each day.

Our 3 daughters have walked to school (Wildwood, Middle School, and now High School) for the past 15 years. That has been a source of anxiety for all of us, as cars go very, very fast on the road and aren't aware of small or tall children on the little sidewalks. We have, many times, seen one car passing another over the double line across from our house as they speed up the hill.

We propose that speed limits all along Strong Street be uniform, lower, and enforced-- 25 mph would be ideal. We also propose that yellow blinking signals be added to indicate a 20 mile per hour zone in front of the school during the 1/2 hour before and after school begins and ends.